

GETTING WASHINGTON BACK TO WORK AGENDA

March 2003

BUDGETING RESPONSIBLY:

Republicans are working to improve upon the governor's Priorities of Government. We're taking many of his ideas and making them better for the citizens of our state. At the same time, we're saving nearly a BILLION DOLLARS in the state general fund and other funds in the 2003-05 biennium. The following bills passed the Senate and now await House action:

The Senate Republicans' 2003 supplemental budget implements \$127 million in cost-savings now and reduces the general fund-state budget by \$250 million for 2003-05. (SB 5403 passed the Senate, 29-20 i, and a conference committee report awaits passage in the House of Representatives)

REDUCING RED TAPE

- **SB 5161**: Makes the state's ergonomics rules voluntary. (Passed Senate, 30-19ⁱⁱ, awaiting hearing in House Commerce and Labor Committee)
- SB 5052: Requires significant agency regulations to sit through a full legislative session before they are adopted to allow the Legislature to determine whether or not the regulation fits within policy set by the Legislature. (Passed Senate, 33-16ⁱⁱⁱ, hearing in House State Government Committee on 3/27/03)
- SB 5053: Requires legislative approval for significant new agency rules to exceed federal standards. (Passed Senate, 25-24^{iv}, awaiting hearing in House State Government Committee)
- **SB 5254**: Allows citizens or businesses to challenge agency rules in the county where they live, work or own affected property --rather than forcing them to go all the way to Thurston County courts. (Passed Senate, 35-14^v, awaiting hearing in House State Government Committee)
- SB 5255: Limits the rule-making authority of agencies to specific legislative grants of authority. (Passed Senate, 33-16^{vi}, awaiting hearing in House State Government Committee)
- SB 5256: Insists on the completion of cost-benefit analyses earlier in the rule-making process. (Passed Senate, 48-1^{vii}, hearing in House State Government Committee on 3/20/03)
- SB 5257: Requires gubernatorial approval of agency rules. (Passed Senate, 41-8^{viii}, hearing in House State Government Committee on 3/20/03)
- SB 5766: Requires 200 days notice to businesses affected by significant rules.
 (Passed Senate, 48-0ix, hearing in House State Government Committee on 3/20/03)
- ESSB 5697: Ties the state's minimum wage indexing to the unemployment rate in Washington. (Passed Senate, 25-24x, awaiting hearing in House Commerce and Labor Committee)

ADDRESSING RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS

SB 5521: Allows insurance carriers to offer more affordable, "bare bones" health care packages so they can tailor their products to the employers' and employees'

needs and increase access for small businesses and their employees. (Passed Senate, 29-20xi, awaiting hearing in House Health Care Committee)

RETURNING "JUSTICE" TO THE CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- **SB 5728:** Implements comprehensive liability reform to drive down insurance costs for doctors, hospitals, cities, counties, contractors. (Passed Senate, 28-21^{xii}, awaiting hearing in House Judiciary Committee)
- SB 5209: Specifically addresses the medical liability crisis to retain doctors in Washington. (Passed Senate, 30-19xiii, awaiting hearing in House Judiciary Committee)

REDUCING COSTS IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION

- SB 5271: Saves \$228 million in the employer-funded accident account by requiring workers to file hearing loss claims for "permanent partial disability" due to workplace exposure within two years of the date of the worker's last exposure. (Passed Senate, 28-21xiv, awaiting hearing in House Commerce and Labor Committee)
- SB 5378: Saves \$149.2 million by requiring the Department of Labor and Industries to calculate wages using a more accurate assessment of a worker's wage history, to exclude fringe benefits from the calculation of wages, and to pay compensation for lost wages at 65.5 percent of a worker's wage. (Passed Senate, 25-24xv, awaiting hearing in House Commerce and Labor Committee)

IMPROVING LAND USE REGULATION AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- SB 5536: Helps contractors better afford liability insurance and encourages them to get back into the condominium market, which will drive down housing costs for workers in urban areas. (Passed Senate, 41-8xvi, hearing in House Judiciary Committee on 3/27/03)
- SB 5409 creates a "double-majority" petition method where both a majority of voters and property owners would have to approve future annexations to improve fairness. (Passed Senate, 47-0, House Local Government Hearing on 3/26/03)
- **SB 5307:** Requires local governments to issue GMA permits with a 120-day limit. (Passed Senate, 33-16^{xvii}, awaiting hearing in House Local Government Committee)
- **SB 5658**: Requires local governments to consider the best available science in GMA planning without requiring a particular approach to allow flexibility. (Passed Senate, 34-14xviii, awaiting hearing in House Local Government Committee)
- SB 5680: Exempts counties with lower population densities from GMA requirements. (Passed Senate, 38-11xix, hearing in House Local Government Committee on 3/26/03)
- **SB 6012:** Provides more certainty for planning by codifying the shoreline management guidelines in existence prior to the 1995 legislative amendments rather than allowing the Dept. of Ecology to determine the guidelines. (Passed Senate, 31-18^{xx}, awaiting hearing in House Local Government Committee)

PROVIDING CERTAINTY IN WATER PERMITTING AND REGULATION

- **SB 5086**: Alters the appeals process for water-related actions. (Passed Senate, 26-23xxi, awaiting hearing in House Judiciary Committee)
- **SB 5025:** Freezes Ecology's authority to enforce the use-it-or-lose-it statute. (Passed Senate, 33-16^{xxii}, awaiting hearing in House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee)
- **SB 5028**: Separates regulation of water quality and water quantity. (Passed Senate, 26-23xxiii, hearing in House Agriculture and Natural Resources Cte. on 3/28/03)
- **SB 5023**: Improves access to groundwater (Passed Senate, 32-17xxiv, hearing in House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on 3/28/03)
- SB 5027: Begins the final step of the watershed planning process: implementation. (Passed Senate, 30-19xxv, hearing in House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on 3/28/03)

SUPPORTING WASHINGTON BUSINESSES

- SB 5192: Requires State Investment Board invest a portion of the portfolio in Washington technology companies. (Passed Senate, 33-16xxvi, hearing in House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee on 3/28/03)
- **SB 5464**: Prohibits local B&O tax on intellectual property. (Passed Senate, 37-12xxvii, hearing in House Technology, Communications and Energy Committee on 3/21/03)
- * SB 5363/HB 1032: Provides a sustainable funding source for the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) to finance economic development infrastructure. (Supporting House bill, which passed, 97-0, hearing in Senate Economic Development Committee on 3/21/03)
- **SB 5715**: Establishes an information sharing system to allow financial institutions, retailers and law enforcement to fight financial fraud. (Passed Senate, 49-0, awaiting hearing in House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee)
- SB 5720: Allows merchants to request ID in credit/debit transactions. (Passed Senate, 49-0, hearing in House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee on 3/21/03)
- **SB 5714**: Establishes parity between financial institutions in this state and across the nation. (Passed Senate, 49-0, hearing in House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee on 3/21/03)

Voting Nay: Senators Brown, Doumit, Eide, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, Jacobsen, Kastama, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Poulsen, Prentice, Rasmussen, Regala, B. Sheldon, Shin, Spanel, and Thibaudeau.

Voting Nay: Senators Brown, Eide, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, Jacobsen, Kastama, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Poulsen, Prentice, Reardon, Regala, B. Sheldon, Shin, Spanel, Thibaudeau, and Winsley.

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¹ **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, Hargrove, Haugen, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, Reardon, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, T. Sheldon, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

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Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Poulsen, Prentice, Rasmussen, Reardon, Regala, B. Sheldon, Shin, Spanel, Thibaudeau, and Winsley.

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Viii Voting Yea: Senators Benton, Brandland, Brown, Carlson, Deccio, Doumit, Eide, Esser, Finkbeiner, Fraser, Hale, Hargrove, Haugen, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, Kastama, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, Poulsen, Rasmussen, Reardon, Regala, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Shin, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

Voting Nay: Senators Fairley, Franklin, Jacobsen, Kline, McAuliffe, Prentice, Spanel, and Thibaudeau.

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^x **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, Finkbeiner, Hale, Hargrove, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, Rasmussen, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, T. Sheldon, Stevens, Swecker, West, and Zarelli.

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xiv **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, Doumit, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, Hargrove, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, T. Sheldon, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

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^{xvi} **Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Brown, Carlson, Deccio, Doumit, Eide, Esser, Finkbeiner, Fraser, Hale, Hargrove, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Jacobsen, Johnson, Kastama, McAuliffe, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, Poulsen, Prentice, Rasmussen, Reardon, Regala, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Shin, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

Voting Nay: Senators Fairley, Franklin, Haugen, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Spanel, and Thibaudeau.

Voting Yea: Senators Benton, Brandland, Brown, Deccio, Doumit, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, Hargrove, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, Keiser, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, Poulsen, Rasmussen, Reardon, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, T. Sheldon, Shin, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

Voting Nay: Senators Carlson, Eide, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, Haugen, Jacobsen, Kastama, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Prentice, Regala, B. Sheldon, Spanel, and Thibaudeau.

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Voting Nay: Senators Brown, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, Jacobsen, Kastama, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Prentice, Regala, B. Sheldon, Spanel, and Thibaudeau.

Absent: Senator Schmidt.

xix Voting Yea: Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, Doumit, Eide, Esser, Finkbeiner, Franklin, Fraser, Hale, Hargrove, Haugen, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, Kastama, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, Prentice, Rasmussen, Reardon, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Shin, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

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Voting Nay: Senators Brandland, Brown, Carlson, Eide, Fairley, Finkbeiner, Franklin, Fraser, Hargrove, Jacobsen, Kastama, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Poulsen, Prentice, Reardon, Regala, B. Sheldon, Shin, Spanel, and Thibaudeau. **XXIV Voting Yea:** Senators Benton, Brandland, Carlson, Deccio, Doumit, Esser, Finkbeiner, Hale, Hargrove, Haugen, Hewitt,

Honeyford, Horn, Johnson, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Oke, Parlette, Rasmussen, Roach, Rossi, Schmidt, Sheahan, B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Shin, Stevens, Swecker, West, Winsley, and Zarelli.

Voting Nay: Senators Brown, Eide, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, Jacobsen, Kastama, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Poulsen, Prentice, Reardon, Regala, Spanel, and Thibaudeau.

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